

NORTH AMERICAN DIATOMACEÆ

A new guide for the American student of Diatoms will be of interest to many members of the American Microscopical Society. Charles S. Boyer has issued a monograph of most painstaking character on the Diatomaceæ of Philadelphia and vicinity. The book opens with an introduction descriptive of the physical condition of the Philadelphia region,—which means a territory with a radius of about 100 miles from Philadelphia. A short chapter is devoted to the structure, reproduction, evolution, and rôle in nature of the diatoms.

The body of the book is given to keys, descriptions, and figures of nearly 600 species and varieties. There are 700 drawings by the author illustrating these species. All these drawings are to uniform scale,—about 800 diameters. In his classification the author adopts Schuett's synthesis of the various bases of classification of Pfitzer and Petit, Smith, Mereschkowsky, as well as the older methods. The synonymy is for the most part omitted.

The appendix contains suggestions as to the collection and preparation of diatoms for mounting and study. Many of these will prove most helpful for the inexperienced student of the group. The headings:—Collection of fresh water material; Collection of marine material; Blue clay deposit; Cleaning material; Preparation of strewn mounts; Preparation of selected mounts; Instruments required,—will sufficiently indicate the scope of these hints. Mechanically the book is very attractive. It is bound in art vellum cloth, the pages are 9x12, and the text is printed on heavy unglazed paper.

The Diatoms of Philadelphia and Vicinity, by Charles S. Boyer, A.M., F.R.M.S., 143 pages, 700 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1916. Price \$5.00.